

I am writing to object to Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry pseudo-documentary days before the election. This amounts to free advertising for one side masquerading as a (so-called) news item. The very title ("Stolen Honor") suggests that it will perpetuate undocumented slanders against the candidate previously aired as "advertisements" by partisan groups (and which even Republican John McCain has called a dishonorable attack.).

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead of using this privilege to present a truly fair and balanced view, Sinclair is using its power as a political partisan. Because it is a large company that controls a large portion of the media this activity undermines the democratic process and is essentially a contribution of millions of dollars worth of airtime to one political party. This abuse of power is specifically prohibited by law, and it is up to the Federal Communications Commission to enforce that law and its underlying principle of fair-play and democratic interchange when using the airwaves.

I am also concerned when stations refuse to run political advertisements that factually object to a documented policy or position, but allow misrepresentations against to be aired.

By the way, I would be equally angered if a news station broadcast only slanders against the other side. This is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of democracy, freedom, fair play, and law. If the FCC does not enforce the laws that require equal time, then we step closer and closer to a dictatorship.

Thank you.

Dr. Vida Hull (Ph.D.)  
1315 Plantation Drive  
Johnson City, TN 37604